

Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure



Plan for 2015-16

Statement from the Minister



*The Honourable
Nancy Heppner*

*Minister of Highways and
Infrastructure*

As Minister of Highways and Infrastructure, it is my pleasure to present our Plan for 2015-16.

Government's Direction and Budget for 2015-16 is focused on *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*, balancing building for the future with fiscal responsibility. This year's investment of \$842 million raises the four year total to over \$2.7 billion, far exceeding our promise to invest \$2.2 billion over four years. This year's budget and plan are another major step in addressing current transportation challenges while also building infrastructure for future growth.

Investments through the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure support the economy by improving access to local and international markets. This is represented in the Ministry's Vision: "Transportation -- Connecting Saskatchewan to the World." The Ministry will be investing in exciting new projects such as the Regina Bypass and exploring other opportunities for future major projects that reduce congestion, increase safety and improve transport routes throughout our province. These projects provide the foundation for future growth.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to *Keeping Saskatchewan Strong*. The province faces challenges due to volatile resource revenue; however, Saskatchewan's economy is diverse and resilient. There are strengths in many sectors from agriculture and manufacturing to resources such as potash and uranium.

With controlled spending and continued support for the conditions necessary for economic growth, the Government will meet the needs of our growing province. Investments in people and infrastructure continue to support Government's commitment to establishing Saskatchewan as the best place to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and
opportunities for Saskatchewan
people

Meeting the challenges
of growth

Securing a better quality
of life for all
Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive
and responsible
government

Government's vision and four goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's citizens.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2015-16 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry manages and provides for the future development of an integrated provincial transportation system which supports economic growth and prosperity for Saskatchewan. Our infrastructure investments will be guided by strategic transportation policy and incorporate operating and maintenance practices which promote the safe and efficient movement of people and goods.

Mission Statement

To provide a safe, reliable transportation system that supports Saskatchewan's growth economy and quality of life. We strive to deliver innovative sustainable infrastructure to serve the needs of our customers.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Meeting the challenges of growth	Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people	Delivering responsive and responsible government
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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Economic corridors and gateways facilitate growth in export and trade and the movement of goods and services locally, regionally, and internationally.

Ministry Goal

Supporting Trade and Investment

Strategy

Reduce congestion around major cities and on high traffic corridors.

Key Actions

- ⇐ Construct twinning and passing lanes to improve traffic flow and increase safety by:
 - ↳ Continuing twinning on Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to Clavet for 19.5 km;
 - ↳ Commencing twinning on Highway 7 west of Saskatoon to Delisle for 24 km and Highway 39 east of Estevan to Bienfait for 9 km;
 - ↳ Completing six passing lanes on Highway 7 from Delisle to Rosetown; and,
 - ↳ Commencing pre-construction work for passing lanes on Highway 5 east of Saskatoon.
- ⇐ Construct bypasses to improve traffic flow:
 - ↳ Complete procurement and begin the construction of the Regina Bypass project through a public-private partnership (P3) contract; and,
 - ↳ Commence paving on the Highway 39 Estevan Bypass.
- ⇐ Commence construction of interchanges on Highway 11 at Warman and Highway 12 at Martensville.
- ⇐ Continue the multi-year improvements on Highway 15, as the designated high clearance corridor, between Kenaston and Simpson.



- ⇒ Invest in urban highway projects and key planning studies to improve efficiency on provincial highways through major urban centres.
- ⇒ Continue planning and design for the twinning of Highway 6 and Highway 39 corridor.
- ⇒ Continue to work on the Saskatoon Perimeter Highway planning study.

Performance Measures

Reduce travel time around major urban congested areas.

Increased utilization by industry of the High Clearance Corridor.

Strategy

Develop a regulatory climate that provides for greater free flow of goods in the supply chain.

Key Actions

- ⇒ Continue work to meet the commitments of the New West Partnership Premiers' Summit by leading an inter-provincial working group within the Pacific Gateway Alliance to develop and deliver on actions for an integrated and collaborative logistics system.
- ⇒ Work with national and regional task forces, and provincial jurisdictions to eliminate barriers to trade and interprovincial truck movement, and minimize differences in standards or regulations.
- ⇒ Collaborate with SaskPower and the Ministry of Economy to develop a strategic plan for a network of high clearance corridors.
- ⇒ Conduct a review to clarify jurisdictional responsibility for urban bypasses and urban highway connectors.

Performance Measure

Increase alignment of regulations and policies in the New West region and at the national level.



Government Goals

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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Integrated planning of initiatives at the provincial, regional, and municipal level that result in future population and private sector growth.

Ministry Goal

Efficiently managing the transportation system

Strategy

Integrated planning is achieved through developing and implementing processes to engage the public and stakeholders.

Key Actions

- ⇧ Work with Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI) to:
 - ⇨ Ensure the Ministry's Geographic Information Systems capabilities are compatible with SGI permitting activities to integrate mapping with Saskatchewan's on-line permitting system by 2015; and,
 - ⇨ Collaborate in the development of a single-window permitting system across the western provinces by 2020.
- ⇧ Work with provincial ministries, agencies, municipalities and the federal government to maximize federal investment from the New Building Canada Plan in Saskatchewan's provincial and municipal infrastructure.
- ⇧ Complete the Saskatoon Regional Transportation Demand Model to predict future traffic.
- ⇧ Define a Core Highway Network as the backbone of Saskatchewan's road transportation system.
- ⇧ Develop an integrated rural highway policy framework.
- ⇧ Work with the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) in developing a resource road program that leverages the New Building Canada Fund to build transportation infrastructure that supports moving goods to market.
- ⇧ Collaborate with consultant engineers and road building contractors to improve procurement and project delivery practices and the timing of public tenders.
- ⇧ Introduce performance standards and evaluation measures to improve the timeliness of delivery and quality of construction projects.
- ⇧ Develop and implement a vendor performance management system.
- ⇧ Work with provincial ministries to provide an enterprise solution for spatial data and provide public access to this information.
- ⇧ Implement the Ministry's Occupational Health and Safety strategic plan to achieve Mission Zero targets.

Performance Measures

The number of open houses and public meetings.

Value of projects approved by Canada towards the \$196.5 million in federal funding allocated to the Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure projects - 2015-16 target is \$69.0 million.



Strategy

Aligning priorities to achieve a sustainable multi-modal transportation system.

Key Actions

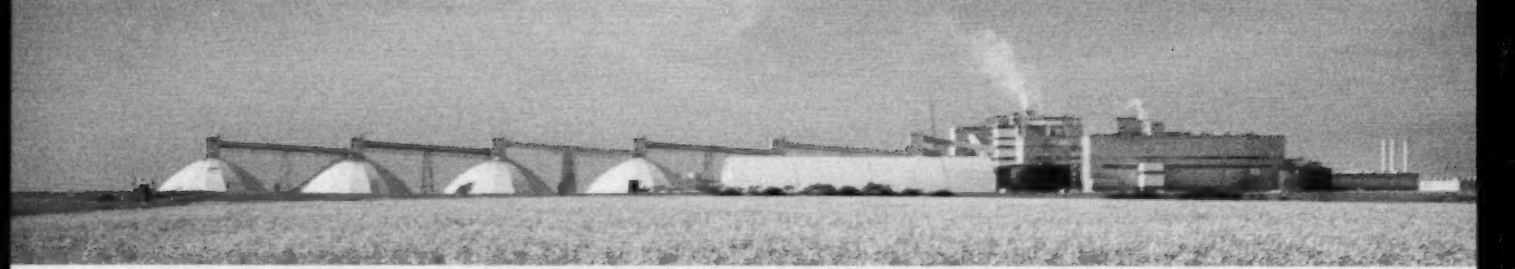
- ⇒ Provide appropriate pavement treatments to increase the longevity of the assets to meet life cycle requirements.
- ⇒ Extend the service life and ensure the adequacy of drainage structures by:
 - ⇒ Replacing or repairing aging culvert and wood box drainage structures;
 - ⇒ Replacing 35 bridges on Saskatchewan's highways including 16 bridges that will be replaced with culverts;
 - ⇒ Making major repairs on six bridges; and,
 - ⇒ Continuing with the Ministry's bridge inspection and replacement strategy by ensuring all bridges have been inspected every second year.
- ⇒ Provide investments to support provincial air travel.
 - ⇒ Rehabilitate the runways at the Stony Rapids Airport and the Buffalo Narrows Airport.
 - ⇒ Support community airports through the Community Airport Partnership Program, which results in a \$1.4 million investment for improvements to small airports.
 - ⇒ Work with the Saskatchewan private sector to make improvements to aviation services.
- ⇒ Work with provincial short lines to apply the new federal railway rules and rail safety regulations on provincially regulated railways.
- ⇒ Support transportation system integration to improve mobility on the provincial and municipal road systems by:
 - ⇒ Investing \$16.0 million through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program (MREP) - a partnership agreement with the SARM - for municipal road and bridge enhancement and preservation.
 - ⇒ Working with rural municipalities to provide alternate truck routes on municipal roads through Strategic Partnership Program agreements, and thereby preserve thin membrane surface highways.

Performance Measures

Number of bridges upgraded – target 41 bridges for 2015-16.

Number of bridges inspected – target 100 per cent every two years.

Number of municipal partnerships for alternate truck routes.



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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Transportation infrastructure is the foundation for economic growth and improved quality of life.

Ministry Goal

Enhancing quality of life

Strategy

Improving road conditions through defined levels of service.

Key Actions

- ⇒ Repave 300 km on Saskatchewan's highways.
- ⇒ Complete construction of 150 km of rural provincial highways.
- ⇒ Complete the construction of a super grid road on Highway 47 north of Stoughton and monitor the effectiveness of the super grid pilots.
- ⇒ Support winter maintenance services through the Winter Night Surveillance program by providing overnight winter road surveillance and minor winter maintenance on high volume highways around and to major urban centres.
- ⇒ Invest \$56.3 million in the North to improve and maintain infrastructure.

Performance Measure

Public satisfaction with the condition of provincial highways.



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Strategic priority from the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*: Continue to build safer communities.

Ministry Goal

Increasing transportation safety

Strategy

Reduce collisions on the transportation system at intersections and on high traffic corridors.

Key Actions

- Invest \$7.0 million through the Safety Improvement Program for safety warranted projects.
- Continue to provide quality road information for travellers through the Highway Hotline.
- Reinforce safe driving practices in Ministry work zones and around snow plows through the annual Work Zone and Snow Zone campaigns.
- Deliver the Pavement Marking Program to provide visible pavement lines for a safe directional flow of traffic.
- Deliver the Signing Stewardship Program to rehabilitate, replace and install new signs in order to keep the overall condition of the approximately 115,000 regulatory, warning, guide and information signs on the provincial network in good repair.
- Deliver public crossing and provincial rail inspection programs for provincially regulated rail lines and short line companies.
- Continue to participate in "Road Check" and "Operation Air Brake" annual international safety inspection events and plan strategic enforcement activities to reduce commercial vehicle safety violations.

Highlights

2015-16 Budget Highlights:

- ⇧ The Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure has a total budget of \$842 million including a capital investment of \$560 million, the largest transportation budget in history. The 2015-16 budget allows the Ministry to respond to the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth* through continuing to deliver projects that support current and future growth.
- ⇧ The Ministry will continue to preserve and improve the condition of the provincial highway system through investments including:
 - ↳ \$133.8 million for preventative maintenance on provincial highways and bridges; and,
 - ↳ \$95 million for Heavy Preservation which includes repaving of at least 300 km of highways.
- ⇧ \$74 million will be invested in the rural provincial highway system for highway upgrades and improved accessibility and safety.
- ⇧ \$319 million for major projects supporting the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth*, including:
 - ↳ Continued construction of twinning on Highway 16 east of Saskatoon to Clavet for 19.5 km; and, commencing construction on:
 - ↳ Highway 7 west of Saskatoon to Delisle for 24 km; and,
 - ↳ Highway 39 east of Estevan to Bienfait for 9 km.
 - ↳ Construct passing lanes to improve traffic flow and increase safety by:
 - ↳ Completing six passing lanes on Highway 7 from Delisle to Rosetown; and,
 - ↳ Commencing pre-construction work for passing lanes on Highway 5 east of Saskatoon.
 - ↳ Construct bypasses to improve traffic flow.
 - ↳ Complete procurement and begin the construction of the Regina Bypass project through a public-private partnership (P3) contract; and,
 - ↳ Commence paving on the Highway 39 Estevan Bypass.
 - ↳ Commence construction of interchanges on Highway 11 at Warman and Highway 12 at Martensville.
 - ↳ Continue planning and design for the twinning of Highway 6 and Highway 39 corridor.
 - ↳ In its continuing effort to address the infrastructure deficit, the Ministry will invest \$46.2 million of capital in bridges and culverts.
- ⇧ The Ministry will invest \$16.0 million through the Municipal Roads for the Economy Program that will enhance or preserve rural municipal transportation infrastructure.
- ⇧ The Urban Highway Connector Program will invest \$7.7 million towards capital projects and operations and maintenance to improve the safe and efficient movement of people and goods by enhancing traffic flow through urban municipalities on urban highway connectors.
- ⇧ The Ministry will be delivering \$15.0 million of infrastructure restoration and upgrades as a result of flooding damages that occurred in 2014.

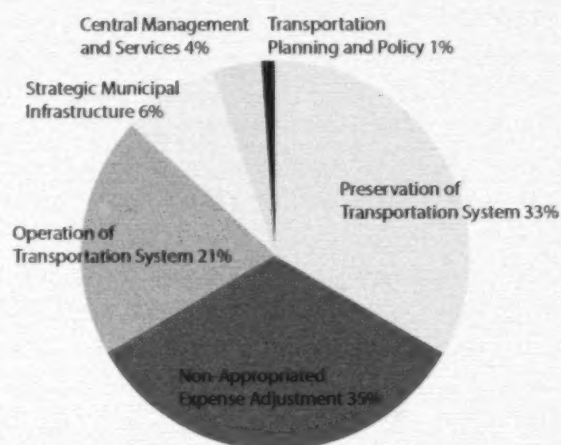
Financial Summary

2015-16 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	18,457
Strategic Municipal Infrastructure	26,245
Operation of Transportation System	89,199
Preservation of Transportation System	144,900
Transportation Planning and Policy	3,306
Custom Work Activity	---
Infrastructure and Equipment Capital	559,865
Total Appropriation	841,972
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(559,865)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	152,423
Total Expense	434,530

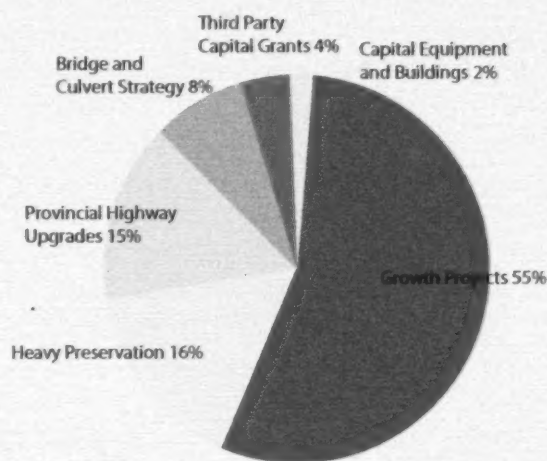
FTE Staff Complement	1,320.0
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For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget>

Total Expense Budget



Total Capital Investment



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at <http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/highways-and-infrastructure>